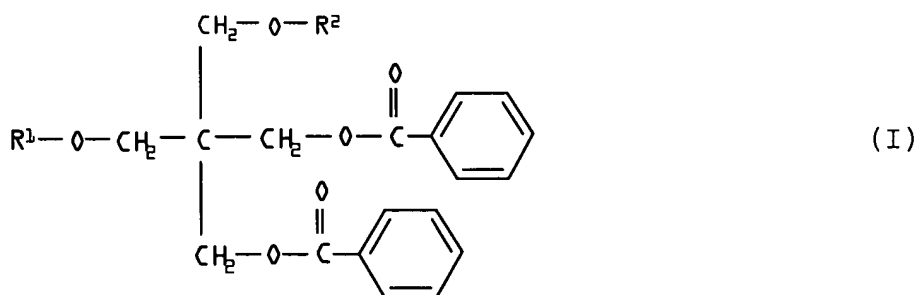


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. A cosmetic composition comprising:  
an ester of pentaerythritol and a benzoic acid  
having the formula (I):



wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  independently indicate a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched fatty acid residue having 1 to 24 carbon atoms or a benzoic acid residue and  
a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

2. A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  of the ester of pentaerythritol and benzoic acid of said formula (I) is a 2-ethylhexanoic acid residue and  $R^2$  is a benzoic acid residue.

3. A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount blended of the ester of pentaerythritol and benzoic acid of formula (I) is 5 to 80% by mass.

4. A cosmetic composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the cosmetic composition is a lipstick.